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NO. 49.

BULLETIN OF FOREIGN PLANT INTRODUCTIONS.

October 1 to 15, 1910.

NEW PLANT IMMIGRANTS.

BELOU MARMELOS. (Rutaceae.) 28875. Plants of bael fruit from Pusa, Bengal, India. Presented by Dr. A. Howard. Dalsing serai variety. (See No. 24450 for description.) For distribution later. (See photograph.)

BROMELIA SP. (Bromeliaceae.) 28689. Seeds from Paraguay. Presented by Mr. C. F. Mead. "This plant, which in Guaranay is called 'Caraguata', is a cactus. It grows in camp hereabouts, especially in barren spots. Every year in fall the center leaves turn bright red and it flowers--a cluster of pink and white flowers, similar to tuberoses. The fruits are in a cluster 10 to 15 inches long and 4 to 6 inches in diameter, bright yellow when ripe, and each fruit is the size of a small plum. It is used here for preserves only. The plant has a bad name, owing to the difficulty of clearing it out of land after it is well started." (Mead.) For distribution later.

CARICA PAPAYA. (Passifloraceae.) 28887. Seeds from Camp Overton, Mindanao, Philippine Islands. Presented by Major Chas. H. Muir, through Mr. E. C. Green. "This seed is from the best variety of this fruit I have ever met with in either the Philippines or Cuba; it is spoken of as the Capitan by some, and as the Java by others." (Muir.) For distribution later.

CATHA EDULIS. (Celastraceae.) 28825. Plants from Aden, Arabia. Procured by Mr. Chas. K. Moser, American Consul. "Mr. Moser reports that nearly every Arab in Western Arabia chews khat habitually, often paying half his daily wage for the fresh leaves. Khat contains an alkaloid which acts as a stimulant and this will be given especial study as to its harmful effects before any general distribution is made." (Fairchild.) (See No. 24714 for further description.) For distribution later.

CYNARA SCOLYMUS. (Compositae.) 28877. Plants of the Precoce d'Alger, Artichoke of Algeria. From Maison-Carree, Algeria. Presented by Dr. L. Trabut. For distribution later.

CYTISUS PROLIFERUS var. palmensis. (Fabaceae.) 28827. Seeds from Porto Ovotava, Teneriffe, Canary Islands. Presented by Mr. Geo. V. Perez. "This is a splendid forage plant and very drought resistant. The failures with it are due to the ignorance of the farmers and to not cutting back the plant. Cattle and horses have to learn to eat it and relish it ever after.

In the Island of Palma, Canary Islands, where it has been native from time immemorial, it has been used with the greatest success. It is quite as nutritious as luzerne and does not require irrigation. I know of nothing that will fatten cattle and horses so much." (Perez.) For distribution later.

DIOSPYROS DISCOLOR. (Ebenaceae.) 28900. Seeds from Iloilo, Panay, Philippine Islands. Presented by Mr. J. B. O. Colman, Bureau of Public Works. "This is a species of persimmon which has a thick and pleasantly-flavored meat. The fruits from which these seeds were taken were unusually large and perfect." (Colman.) For distribution later.

ECHIUM SIMPLEX. (Boraginaceae.) 28828. Seeds from Porto Ovctava, Teneriffe, Canary Islands. Presented by Mr. Geo. V. Perez. "The so-called Pride of Teneriffe, a lovely showy native plant, remarkable for its single tall spike of white flowers reaching from 2 to 3 yards high. From what I have seen and observed I have come to the conclusion that, besides being a very ornamental plant, it could be made a most valuable fodder, having the advantage over the prickly comphrey of being drought resistant. The idea is entirely my own after watching how greedily my cows eat it." (Perez.) For distribution later.

GOSSYPIUM SPP. (Malvaceae.) 28879-880. Seeds of two varieties of wild cotton from Mauritius. Presented by Mr. G. Regnard. For distribution later.

LATHYRUS POLYPHYLLUS. (Fabaceae.) 28823. Seeds from Oregon. Presented by Mr. Geo. R. Schoch. "A perennial species with violet colored flowers, abundant in the open coniferous woods throughout Western Washington and Oregon. The plants appear in early spring and become fully mature and dry in July. Stock are not fond of the plants when green, but eat the hay readily." (C. V. Piper.) For distribution later.

PASSIFLORA SP. (Passifloraceae.) 28878. Seeds from Patras, Greece. Grown by Mrs. Crowe. Presented by Mr. A. Donaldson Smith, American Consul, Aguascalientes, Mexico. "I have tasted the passion flower fruit in many places and the fruit from which these seeds were taken was the best." (Smith.) For distribution later.

RAJANIA PLEIONEURA (Dioscoreaceae). 28894. Roots from Dominica, British West Indies. Presented by Mr. J. Jones, Curator, Botanic Station. "The waw-waw is a native of Dominica. It occurs wild in the forests and does best in the deep shade. It is not cultivated in this Island, probably because an abundance of the yam can be obtained by digging in the forest.

The waw-waw is considered by many people to be superior to the yams produced by the Dioscoreas." (Jones.) For distribution later.

OLANUM MURICATUM. (Solanaceae.) 28899. Cuttings from Grand Canary, Canary Islands. Presented by Mr. M. Moniz, at the request of Mr. Ross J. Hazeltine, American Consul at Teneriffe. "A fruit known here as melon pear. It grows on bushes about two or three feet high; when ripe it is yellow and the shape of a melon. In taste it is a blend between a cantaloupe and a pear." (Solomon Berliner.) This is the pepino of Guatemala. For distribution later. (See photograph.)

RITICUM DICOCCUM DICOCCOIDES. (Poaceae.) 28885. Seeds of wild wheat from Haifa, Palestine. Presented by Mr. A. Aaronsohn, Director, Jewish Agricultural Experiment Station. "The wild wheat thought by Mr. Aaronsohn to be the prototype of the cultivated wheat." (Fairchild.) (See B. P. I. Bulletin No. 180 for further description.) For distribution later.

'ICIA GIGANTEA. (Fabaceae.) 28824. Seeds from Oregon. Presented by Mr. Geo. R. Schoch. "A perennial vetch with ochroleucous flowers, growing along the Pacific Coast from Sitka to middle California. It grows to a great size, the vines being often 8 to 12 feet long and producing a great abundance of plants and pods. The seeds, however, are ordinarily destroyed by insects. Stock ordinarily will not eat the plants while green and are not particularly fond of the hay. The entire plant turns black on drying." (C. V. Piper.) For distribution later.

'IGNA UNGUICULATA. (Fabaceae.) 28829. Seeds of tan cowpea from Togo, Africa. Presented by Mr. G. H. Pape, through Mr. A. B. Conner. For distribution later.

'IGNA UNGUICULATA. (Fabaceae.) 28888-893. Seeds from the province of Para, near the town of Braganca, Brazil. Presented by Mr. W. Fischer. For distribution later.

'ITIS SP. (Vitaceae.) 28876. Cuttings from Hollywood, California. Presented by Mr. E. D. Sturtevant. "Native of the southern part of the State of Vera Cruz, Mexico. Said to bear beautiful scarlet flowers. It is hardy here, but does not bloom. It might succeed in southern Florida." (Sturtevant.) For distribution later.

NOTES OF FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS.

AUSTRALIA, Queensland. Dr. Alexander Graham Bell reports on several plants observed in Queensland, among them the following: Near Kuranda a very tempting fruit, known as the finger cherry, is found. It is red, like a cherry, and is about the shape and size of a finger. It is said to be poisonous and occasionally to cause blindness in those who eat it. However, Mr. Wriede, the station master at Kuranda, says that he used to eat it freely without ill effects, and that the children are quite fond of it.

In the scrub near Kuranda we noticed trees bearing pods about the size and shape of a banana, but at least twice the diameter. Upon opening the pods they were found to contain huge beans that look very much like chestnuts. They have a leathery skin and the interior is white and not very hard, about the consistency of a nut. I tasted one of the beans, although I was told it was poisonous. It tasted very much like a nut but had no distinctive flavor. In spite of the poisonous nature of the bean the "black fellows" have learned to use it as food. They first roast the beans in hot ashes, then skin them and pound the white flesh into coarse flour. They fill a basket with this flour and place it in running water all night. In this way the poisonous principle is washed out.

The prickly pear in Australia has become such a nuisance that enormous sums are paid to get rid of it. Land is practically given away to persons who will undertake to clear it of prickly pear. Mr. Jones suggests that instead of spending money in the useless task of attempting to eradicate it, the Australians should make it of use and make a profit out of it. He has considered the question of manufacturing paper from it but the outlook is not encouraging. It has too much juice and not enough fiber. He thinks alcohol could be made from it, as it contains about 5 per cent reducing sugar. At all events he says a fortune awaits the man who can find a use for it.

FORMOSA, Taihoku. Mr. Takiya Kawakami, Sept. 8. Writes that he will send, by the end of the present year, the three varieties of sugar cane cultivated at the Formosa Sugar Experimental Station. Chinese names, Chiku-cha, An-cha and Ra-cha.

TRANSVAAL, Pretoria. Prof. J. Burtt-Davy, Sept. 6. Writes in regard to Acacia robusta (S.P.I. No. 28550), that it is a characteristic tree of the dry bush veld below 4,500 feet altitude, i.e., in the subtropical zone of the Transvaal. The wood is sometimes used for fence posts when the rarer and harder sorts, such as Olea verrucosa, are not available.

BELOU MARMELOS, BAEL FRUIT.

A handsome ornamental tree, leafless one month only, with shining dark green leaves. The orange-like fruit is eaten by the natives but is unpalatable to whites except as a sherbet or a marmalade. The fruit is anti-dysenteric. The tree is common throughout India, is easily cultivated and stands a wide range of temperature, 20° to 120° F.

SOLANUM MURICATUM.

Fruits of the pepino, a perfectly seedless fruit with a decided taste of cucumber but sweet and melting, and appreciated by a great many people. It has been grown occasionally in South Carolina.